रहे हैं मंत्री जी, ये आंकड़ किस आधार पर आपने इकट्ठा किये हैं? क्योंकि सरकार एक तरफ तो ये आंकड़े बताती है और दुसरी तरफ इतने कामगार बैकार हुए हैं, एक तिहाई से ऊपर इंडस्ट्री बंद हुई है। मैं यह जनना चाहता हूं कि सरकार के एक तरफ ये आंकड़े आते हैं और दुसरी तरफ दुसरे आंकड़े आते हैं. ऐसा क्यों है?

श्री साहिब सिंह वर्मा: माननीय सभापति: जी जहां तक माननीय सदस्य का यह कहना कि देश में बहुत बड़े पैमाने पर उद्योग बंद हुए हैं, उनका यह कहना गलत नहीं होगा कि एक तिहाई से ज्यादा 6000 में से 4000 युनिट बंद हो गए है। अनेकों जगहों पर कुल मिलाकर ढ़ाई लाख से भी ज्यादा एस्टेब्लिशमेंट बंद हुए है। यह स्थिति है। मैंने आपको जो फिगर्स दी है वह अगल-अलग नहीं है इंडस्ट्रीवाइज़ दी है कि किस इंडस्ट्री में किस प्रकार से कितने लोग प्रभावित हुए है, किस कारण से कितने लोग प्रभावित हुए हैं। माननीय सदस्य अगर कोई और डिटेल चाहेंगे तो वह डिटेल भी दी जा सकती है। इस वक्त मेरे पास जो डिटेल्स हैं, वे मैंने आपको दे दी है।

*266. [The questioner (Shri Vijay Singh Yadav) was absent. For answer *vide* page...*infra]*.

Superfast highway connection between India and China

*267. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: †

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)whether a superfast highway connecting India with its neighbours in the East was discussed during the Prime Minister's Visit besides opening border trade with Beijing *via* Sikkim;

(b) whether India had sought to complete this highway project within 36 months of announcing it in 2001; if so, the reasons for delay; and

(c) by when this highway link is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

1. During the visit of the Prime Minister to China in June 2003, no discussion took place on a highway project connecting India with China or our neighbours to the East.

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri K. Natwar Singh.

2. No announcement of highway project linking the neighbours to the East was made in 2001 The trilateral highway project between India, Myanmar and Thailand was decided at a ministerial meeting on transport linkages held in Yangon in April 2002 and two task-forces, one of financial matters and the other on technical matters, chaired by Thailand and India respectively, were established. The highway was sought on the Indian initiative, to be completed within a time-frame of two (2) years.

3. Exact date for the completion of the project has not yet been decided.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Sir, with your permission, I would like to know from the hon. Minister (a) Whether the work has commenced on the highway.

श्री सभापति: माननीय सदस्यगण, शांति रखिए, माननीय सदस्य प्रश्न पूछ रहे हैं।

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: And, (b): If it has not yet commenced, don't you think that the time frame of two years is totally unrealistic?

SHRI VINOD KHANNA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, a Task Force, on the financial matters, has been set up under the Chairmanship of Thailand...

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: वह तो पढ़ लिया मैने Sir, my supple-mentary is whether the timeframe is a realistic one.

SHRI VINOD KHANNA: Sir, this Task Force is looking into all the financial aspects of the proposed highway. Based on the field survey of the proposed road aligment in Myanmar, carried out by experts from three countries, in April, 2003, the Myanmar Public Works Department has prepared a preliminary cost estimates for the first phase of the highway project. The estimated cost for the first phase of the highway is US $ 169.2 million, inclusive of estimates of new construction as well as upgradation required for the road segments.

The other question that the hon. Member asked is whether the two-year period is sufficient. Sir, this was a suggestion given by India that this should be completed in a period of two years. Whether this can be achieved or not is to be seen.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: That is why I asked you how do you reconcile last sentence of para 2 and para 3 of your reply. How do you reconcile these two? For a layman it is totally confusing because there is a contradiction between what you have said in the last sentence of paragraph two and what you have in paragraph three of your reply.

SHRI VINOD KHANNA: No, Sir, There is no contradiction. We have already stated that this whole preliminary stage of cost estimates and all that have to be first envisaged and further action has to be taken on this. So, till the preliminary things are not in place, how can we set up time-frame for the completion of the project?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: You have said in your reply that it would be completed in two years.

SHRI VINOD KHANNA: Sir, we have only suggested a time-frame of two years.

श्री प्रेम गुप्ता: सभापति महोदय, आज इनके 3 सवाल हैं।

श्री सभापति: मैं एक ही एलाऊ करुंगा । हर क्वेश्चन के साथ आप club हो जाते हैं, मैंबर्स के साथ आपकी अच्छी दोस्ती है, मेरे लिए समस्या है। एक क्वेश्चन पूछ लीजिए इसी में।

DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, the reply says that during the visit of the Prime Minister to China in June, 2003, no discussion took place on highway project connecting India with China or our neighbours on the East. My question is this. There is a highway called Trans-Asian Highway. This road is 1,500 kms long and connecting Manipur, Assam, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. These North-Eastern States are dreaming that if you take up this road and make it into four-lane, it can connect to South China. I would like to know whether there is any proposal to connect this road to South China. What the Government is thinking on this? Sir, the hon. Minister has already said that the relations between India and China are going to be improved substantially and officials of India and China meet every year and finalise the issues. So, may I know from the hon. Minister what action has he taken in this regard? Can we expect that this would be re-constructed and renovated for land-based trade, to begin after a break of nearly fifty years that helps the North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): The question is very specific. The hon. Member wants to know whether this issue was taken up during the visit of the hon. Prime Minister to China. As this issue was not taken up, the reply, naturally, can only be that it was not taken up.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Okay, that's correct. But, I want to know about the future course of action. You are a capable and smart Minister, you must tell us.

श्री सभापति : आप इनको कह दीजिए कि ये भी बहुत कैपेबल है।

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा: वह तो है ही ।

डा. कर्ण सिंह: सभपति महोदय,...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री सभापति: बातचीत ही नहीं हुई है तो ऐसा ही जवाब मिलेगा।

डा. कर्ण सिंह: सभापति महोदय. इंडिया और चाइना के मध्य में हाईवे की बात है। आप जानते हैं कि कैलाश मानसरोवर एक बहुत ही पवित्र स्थान हिन्दुओं के लिए, बौद्धों के लिए, जैनियों कि लिए और सिखों के लिए करोड़ो व्यकितयों के लिए है । मेरा प्रश्न मंत्री जी से यह है कि लद्दाख से मानसरोवर तक यदि सड़क बनती है तो इस समय जो बहुत दुश्वार रास्ता हैं. लोंगों को भटकना पड़ता है, बहुत उसमें आराम हो जायेगा और हजारों यात्री वहां जा पायेंगे। ईस्टर्न हाईवे के अतिरिक्त लद्दाख और मानसरोवर के बीच जो सड़क की योजना हैं, उसके विषय में आपकी क्या प्रगति हो रही है और क्या हम उम्मीद रख सकते हैं कि अगले दो चार वर्षों में यह सड़क बन जायेगी?

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा: सभापति महोदय. जो ईस्टर्न हाईवे की बात है वह तो इंडिया, म्यांमार और थाइलैंड के बीच में है। वह अलग है उससे चाइना का कोई संबध नहीं है। यह जो माननीय सदस्य ने सुझाव रखा है कि हम लद्दाख से कैलाश मानसरोवर के लिए रूट निकाल सकते हैं क्या तो यह एक परम्परागत यात्रा का रूट रहा है। इस बार जब प्रधान मंत्री जी चीन गये थे तो उन्होंने चीन के नेतओं से इसके बारे में बात की है और उन्होंने आश्वासन दिया है कि वे इस पर विचार करेंगे। अभी वहीं पर मामाला टिका हुआ है। वे विचार करके जब हम तक आयेंगे तो फिर हम उस पर आगे विचार करेगे।

डा. कर्ण सिंह: क्या आप पैरवी करते रहेंगे?

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा: हम परस्यु करते रहेंगे।